लुधियाना में टेलीफोन कनैक्शन

792. **श्री मोहिन्दर सिंह कल्याण:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पंजाब राज्य के लुधियाना जिले में 1994-95, 1995-96 तथा 1996-97 के दौरान अब तक कितने टेलीफोन कनैक्शन दिए गये हैं;

(ख) 30 जून, 1997 तक उक्त जिले में कुल कितने आवेदक प्रतीक्षा सूची में थे; और

(ग) उक्त प्रतीक्षा सूची को कब तक समाप्त कर दिए जाने की संभावना है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) पंजाब राज्य के लुधियाना जिले में प्रदान किए गए टेलीफोन कनेक्शनों की संख्या इस प्रकार हैं:-

1994-95	31,731
1995-96	23,783
1996-97	36,110
1997-98	8,932

(31.10.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार)

(ख) 30.6.97 की स्थिति के अनुसार उक्त जिले में प्रतीक्षा सूची में आवेदकों की सुख्या 37,320 थी।

(ग) निम्नलिखित के दौरान प्रतीक्षा सूची का निपटान हो जाने की संभावना है:-

(i) शहरी क्षेत्रों में मार्च 1999 के अंत तक

तथा

(ii) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मार्च 2000 के अंत तक बशर्ते कि आवश्यक संसाधन समय पर उपलब्ध हों।

Direct Lines to Basic Service Operators

793. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunication is expected to provide 20 million direct exchange lines by the basic service operators during the next ten years in addition to 47 million direct exchange lines that it would be provided as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 4th Noverber, 1997;

(b) how much investment on Telecom expansion would be needed in the next five years including for introduction of new services such as Internet; and

(c) whether the three day Asia-Pacific-Telecom trade and finance colloquium held recently in New Delhi provided DoT an excellent platform for exchange of views on all aspects of telecommunication services; if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The 9th five year plan proposals of Department of Telecommunications submitted to Planning Commission for approval envisages an expenditure of Rs. 83250 crores during 9th five year plan (1997-2002) for expansion of Telecom Network including introduction of new services.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Three day Asia and Pacific Trade and Finance Colleoquium, held in New Delhi provided DoT and excellent platform for exchange of views on all aspects of telecommunications especially related to trade, finance and investment in telecom sector.

After detailed deliberations on various aspects the views that emerged are summarised as under:

(i) there is a need to evolve an effective regulatory framework in the region to ensure customer interests keeping pace with the recent rapid development of network and services and the growing number of operators.

(ii) there is a need to synergise sustainable development of telecom network with telecom manufacturing infrastructure and technologies suitable to the Asia Pacific Region.

(iii) an integrated approach needs to be evolved towards universal access and rural telecommunications in particular for the region.

Apart from above many good models on investment and financing in telecommunications were discussed.

Non-Payment of Annual Licence Fee by the Cellular Phone Services Provides

794. SHRI R.K. KUMAR: Will the Minister